



U.S. Department of Justice
National Strategy Meeting

► Identifying the Missing

Wyndham Philadelphia Hotel ■ April 28–29, 2005

AGENDA

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 27, 2005

5:00–8:00 p.m. **Registration**

THURSDAY, APRIL 28, 2005

7:00 a.m.–6:00 p.m. **Registration**

7:30–8:30 a.m. **Continental Breakfast**

8:30–8:55 a.m. **Opening Plenary Session**

Presentation of Colors, Philadelphia Police Department
National Anthem
Moment of Silence

Introductions and Welcoming Remarks

Sarah V. Hart, Director, National Institute of Justice

Guests

Jim Comey, Deputy Attorney General

Patrick Meehan, U.S. Attorney, Eastern District of Pennsylvania

Colm Connolly, U.S. Attorney, District of Delaware

Tracy A. Henke, Acting Assistant Attorney General, Office of
Justice Programs

8:55–9:00 a.m. **Introduction of the Deputy Attorney General**

Tracy A. Henke, Acting Assistant Attorney General, Office of
Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice

9:00–9:30 a.m. **Keynote Address**

Honorable Jim Comey, Deputy Attorney General,
U.S. Department of Justice

9:30–10:30 a.m. **Plenary Session: Framing the Issue: Identifying the Missing**

Moderator: John Gillis, Director, Office for Victims of Crime

Panelists: Emily Craig, Forensic Anthropologist, Commonwealth of Kentucky
 Randy Hanzlick, Medical Examiner, Fulton County, Georgia
 John Bish, Founder, The Molly Bish Foundation

10:30–10:45 a.m.

Break

10:45–11:45 a.m.

Plenary Session: The Role of the FBI: Resources and Support

Moderator: Domingo Herraiz, Director, Bureau of Justice Assistance

Panelists: John E. Stewart, Program Manager, Missing Persons DNA Database, Federal Bureau of Investigation
 Kevin Crawford, Special Agent, Critical Incidents Response Group, Federal Bureau of Investigation
 Harry Carlile, National Crime Information Center, Federal Bureau of Investigation

12:00–1:30 p.m.

Luncheon/Keynote Address

John Walsh, Host, *America's Most Wanted*

1:30–2:00 p.m.

U.S. Department of Justice Resource Overview

Sarah V. Hart, Director, National Institute of Justice

2:00–2:15 p.m.

Break

2:15–3:30 p.m.

Concurrent Breakout A Sessions

Reporting the Missing

What States Can Do

The Balancing Act: How to Address the Ethical, Religious, and Legal Issues

Missing Persons and Intimate Partner Violence, Stalking, and Homicide

3:30–3:45 p.m.

Break

3:45–5:00 p.m.

Concurrent Breakout B Sessions

Solving the Case: Collection, Analysis, and the Identification of Human Remains

Solving the Case: Medical Examiners/Coroners and Law Enforcement Working Together

Solving the Case: A New Look at Cold Cases

Solving the Case: The Importance of Human Remains and Identification

6:30–8:00 p.m.

Reception

FRIDAY, APRIL 29, 2005

- 7:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m. **Registration**
- 7:30–8:30 a.m. **Continental Breakfast**
- 8:30–8:45 a.m. **Coroners and Medical Examiners Census Report**
Larry Greenfeld, Director, Bureau of Justice Statistics
- 8:45–9:45 a.m. **Plenary Session: Principles and Models of Collaboration**
Madeline “Mimi” Carter, Center for Effective Public Policy

Historically, there has been an inability to maximize resources and share information among entities charged with identifying remains and entities conducting investigations. This plenary session will highlight the importance of collaboration among federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies; medical examiners, coroners, and forensic scientists; and victim advocates in solving missing person cases and identifying human remains.
- 9:45–10:00 a.m. **Break**
- 10:00 a.m.–12:00 noon **Work Group Session, Part I (Please break into your assigned work group 1-6)**

Designing a Comprehensive Approach to Identifying Missing Persons: Recommendations for Action

This session is designed to draw upon the expertise of participants in beginning the process of building a strategy to efficiently and effectively identify missing persons. Participants, assigned to facilitated interdisciplinary work groups, will identify a set of specific recommendations that together will assist in the creation of a comprehensive national strategy.
- 12:00–1:15 p.m. **Luncheon/Keynote Address**

John Gillis, Director, Office for Victims of Crime

Janis McCall, One Missing Link, Inc.
- 1:15 a.m.–2:00 p.m. **Work Group Session, Part II (Please break into your assigned work group 1-6)**

Designing a Comprehensive Approach to Identifying Missing Persons: Recommendations for Action, Report Back Preparation

In the second of this two-part session, work groups will distill and synthesize their recommendations and prepare to report their conclusions in the plenary session that follows.

- 2:00–2:45 p.m. **Plenary Session:** Report Back from Work Groups
Recommendations for the Development of a Comprehensive
Approach to Identifying Missing Persons
- 2:45–3:00 p.m. **Closing Remarks**
Cheri Nolan, Deputy Assistant Attorney General, Office of Justice
Programs
- 3:15–5:00 p.m. **Strategic Planning Meeting (Optional)**



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CONCURRENT BREAKOUT SESSIONS

April 28, 2005

2:15–3:30 p.m.

Session 1A: Reporting the Missing

Moderator: *John Gillis*, Director, Office for Victims of Crime

Panelists: *Robert Cooke*, President, Rachel Alert Network; *Tom Monahan*, Homicide Detective, Las Vegas Police Department; *Brad Bryant*, Acting Unit Chief, Indian Country Special Jurisdiction Unit, Federal Bureau of Investigation

Law enforcement policies and procedures vary from jurisdiction to jurisdiction. To be effective in solving missing persons' cases, law enforcement could be aided by knowing when to take a report, the type of information they should collect, and how to work with family members, friends, and others who can assist in the investigative process.

Session 2A: What States Can Do

Moderator: *Sarah V. Hart*, Director, National Institute of Justice

Panelists: *Kristina Koellner*, Agent, Colorado Bureau of Investigation; *Dennis O'Brien*, Chairman, Pennsylvania House Judiciary Committee; *Jeannine Willie*, Director, Missing Persons DNA Program, California Department of Justice

Requirements and standards for taking missing persons reports and identifying human remains vary in each state. Uniform policies, procedures, and protocols can provide consistency and uniformity that likely will improve the outcome of cases. This session will discuss the benefit of developing a standardized system, the costs associated with implementing such a system, and ways to market it to get buy-in from key policymakers.

Session 3A: The Balancing Act: How to Address the Ethical, Religious, and Legal Issues

Moderator: *Carol Henderson*, Stetson University of Law

Panelists: *Robert Kinscherff*, Director of Forensic Training for Law and Psychiatry Service, Massachusetts General Hospital; *Barbara Butcher*, Director, New York City Office of the Chief Medical Examiner; *P. Michael Murphy*, Coroner, Clark County, Nevada

Numerous legal, ethical, and religious issues are associated with the identification of human remains, missing persons' cases, and DNA voluntary or mandatory sampling. This session will provide an overview of the laws, religious customs, and ethical standards that govern how investigators, medical examiners/coroners, and forensic scientists should proceed in the investigative process. The session also will discuss privacy issues when using Web sites to help family and friends find their loved ones.

Session 4A: Missing Persons and Intimate Partner Violence, Stalking, and Homicide

Moderator: *Catherine Pierce*, Office on Violence Against Women

Panelists: *Fernando Mederos*, Consultant; *Jacquelyn Campbell*, Associate Dean, The Johns Hopkins University, School of Nursing; *David Thomas*, Assistant Director, Domestic Violence Program, The Johns Hopkins University; *Byron Johnson*, Professor of Sociology, Baylor University

Women are killed by an intimate partner more often than by any other kind of perpetrator. Many missing women could be victims of intimate partner violence, stalking, and homicide. Panelists will discuss how fatality review teams can help local communities and agencies by collecting detailed data on factors that may have precipitated the fatality, as well as identifying possible system gaps in social service delivery and how to translate this knowledge into strategic efforts to prevent future occurrences of such tragedies.

April 28, 2005

3:45–5:00 p.m.

Session 1B: Solving the Case: Collection, Analysis, and Identification of Human Remains

Moderator: *Susan Narveson*, Acting Chief, Investigative and Forensic Sciences Division, National Institute of Justice

Panelists: *Norman “Skip” Sperber*, Chief Forensic Dentist, San Diego and Imperial Counties, California; *John E.B. Stewart*, Director, Missing Persons DNA Database Program, Federal Bureau of Investigation; *Carrie Whitcomb*, Director, National Center for Forensic Science

The identification of skeletal, badly decomposed, or otherwise unidentified human remains is important for both legal and humanitarian reasons. This session will provide an overview of how human remains are collected, analyzed, and stored and how these processes affect the investigative process and the resolution of a case.

Session 2B: Solving the Case: Medical Examiners/Coroners and Law Enforcement Working Together

Moderator: *Kevin Lothridge*, Deputy Director, National Forensic Science Technology Center

Panelists: *Marcella Fierro*, Chief Medical Examiner, Virginia; *Dean Gialamas*, Director of Forensics Division, Orange County Sheriff’s Office; *John Firman*, Director of Research, International Association of Chiefs of Police

Collaboration between law enforcement and medical examiners/coroners is crucial to investigating missing person cases and identifying human remains. This session will address the challenges and successes that medical examiners/coroners experience when working with law enforcement to solve cases.

Session 3B: Solving the Case: A New Look at Cold Cases

Moderator: *Bill Hagmaier*, Executive Director, International Homicide Investigators Association

Panelists: *Robert Lowery, Jr.*, Major, Greater St. Louis Major Case Squad; *Kym Pasqualini*, Chief Executive Officer, National Center for Missing Adults; *Arthur Eisenberg*, Director, DNA Identity Laboratory, University of North Texas

Family members of the long-term missing face each day without knowing where their family members are or whether they are alive. This lack of closure can be tortuous. This session will focus on how law enforcement can take a new look at an old missing persons case, collect DNA from a family member, and input it into the national database to seek a match and resolve the case.

Session 4B: Solving the Case: The Importance of Human Remains and Identification

Moderator: *Sarah V. Hart*, Director, National Institute of Justice

Panelists: *Colm Connolly*, U.S. Attorney, District of Delaware; *Rockne Harmon*, Senior Deputy District Attorney, Alameda County District Attorney's Office; *Mike Norris*, Coroner, Cumberland County, Pennsylvania

The best evidence in a case often can come from the homicide victim. Gaining a murder conviction without the victim is tricky, but it has been done—through investigative work, circumstantial evidence, and a few lucky breaks. At the same time, unidentified homicide victims can make a criminal prosecution almost impossible. Law enforcement and prosecution strategies concerning these issues will be discussed during this session.